

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by the Chairman, Mr. Carpender, and the following members were present:

Mr. Richard Carpender, Chair  
Mrs. Marge Levesque, Clerk

Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Vice Chair  
Mrs. Cynthia Perrotti

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Patti Cofield, and Mark Dunham (7:00 PM)

Absent: Ms. Volpicelli, Mrs. King, Mr. Buddemeyer, and Daniel Klemmer

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 4-0.

The Public Session recessed at 6:35 PM and resumed at 7:00 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mr. Carpender reported the following:

- The Town Council voted 4-2 to approve the issue of allocating \$5,000 to the study for regionalization at last night's Town Council meeting. There is now \$30,000 coming from communities, some money possibly coming from the General Assembly, and an anonymous benefactor.
- Mr. Buddemeyer is away on business, Ms. Volpicelli is out ill, and Mrs. King is out on personal business this evening.
- An Executive Session was held prior to this meeting on a motion made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque, under RIGL 42-46-5, Sections (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. There were no motions made and no votes taken. The meeting adjourned on a motion made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. So voted 4-0.

2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi announced the following:

- We will be postponing the spotlight of ModelUN participants and will bring them back to a future meeting.
- March is the Youth Art Month. Dr. Lusi signed on to an endorsement for the RI Art Education Association.
- Dr. Lusi congratulated a number of our athletic teams.
- Dr. Lusi announced that work on the budget continues.

a) Teaching and Learning: Assistant Superintendent Jermain reported on the following:

- She attended a very productive Dana session today regarding change. It is important to have all stakeholders involved in change and communicate the importance of providing professional development, support, planning, and communicating the change. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, there will be an RFP coming out for school districts interested in doing more intense training in math and science. There are other East Bay districts interested, as well; and if we apply as a collaborative, there's more of a chance to be funded and have more teachers participate. If we want to continue the Dana training this summer, there will be additional opportunities.

b) Finance and Operations: Mr. Dunham reported on the following:

- The School Department is working on an initiative in facilities with the Town, the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, and National Grid, to provide a comprehensive facilities analysis of our buildings, how they operate, significant problems, and overall efficiency of our buildings. The goal of the assessment is to help us better understand how our buildings use energy, how we can become more efficient, and to help us sustain our green efforts. Our buildings were assessed on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. We anticipate getting our first report sometime in early April.

c) High School Liaison: Absent.

3. **SPOTLIGHT**

- a) **ModelUN 09-10 - PHS**. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee commends Mr. Joseph Cassady and the following Portsmouth High School students for their participation as delegates of the Boston University Model United Nations in February: Kelsey Shanklin, Katie Schultz, Grace Banks, Rachel Yates-Berg, Hannah Petrie, Katie Struckman, Adam Whalley, Mary Duckett, Rebecca Mutty, and Joseph Futoma." This item was removed from the agenda.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the minutes of the meeting held February 23, 2010. So voted 4-0.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) **Coaching Appts. – PHS**. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the coaching appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2009-10 school year as presented."

- b) **Attorney Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee accepts the resignation of Richard Updegrove from the position of School Department Attorney, effective with June 1, 2010.”
- c) **Network Administrator Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee accepts the resignation of James Peluso from the position of Network Administrator, effective March 19, 2010.”
- d) **Contract for Accounting Assistance.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee approves the contract for accounting assistance in accordance with the backup information.” This item was moved to the Business Agenda.
- e) **Approval of Requests for Permission to Home School.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee approves the requests to provide home schooling for the 2009-10 school year for students HS#23-4/10, as listed in the confidential memo dated March 3, 2010, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2.”

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Perrotti asked if Item d) could be moved to the Business Agenda. The motion to approve Items a), b), c), and e) was approved 4-0. Dr. Lusi announced the following coaching appointments:

Jay Amarin	Assistant Coach	Baseball
Jon Devolve	Assistant Coach	Baseball
Mike Borrosh	Head Coach	Girls Lacrosse
Mike Medeiros	Head Coach	Boys Tennis
Karen Byrne	Assistant Coach	Softball
Andrea McDonald	Assistant Coach	Softball

Reappointments:

John Heino	Head Coach	Boys Lacrosse
Tom Galib	Head Coach	Softball
Shaun Horgan	Head Coach	Boys Track

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Andrew Kelly, 33 Pine Street, commented on the In-House Detention room at PHS.

7. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

Item d) was moved from the Consent Agenda at Mrs. Perrotti's request.

- d) **Contract for Accounting Assistance.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to approve the contract for accounting assistance in accordance with the backup information. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. Mrs. Perrotti asked about the hourly rate and length of service for the assistant. Mr. Dunham stated that the assistant would work for 55 hours at an hourly rate of \$100, to help get his department organized and to catch up. He anticipates having the assistant come in 1 to 2 days per quarter moving forward. His goal is to not need this type of assistance every year and to organize his office to do a lot of this work themselves. The motion passed 4-0.

Regular Business Agenda:

- a) **PMS Field Trip Request.** Mr. Joao Arruda requested permission to take a group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders to Portugal in April to give them a chance to learn more about the language and culture of Portugal. The trip is being paid for by parents. He is accompanying the students, along with Mrs. Souza, the school nurse. Mr. Arruda has dealt with the companies they will be traveling with many times in the past. The tour was basically customized for the Portsmouth students so they could have a very enriched experience overseas. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to approve the field trip request. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 4-0.
- b) **Presentation on Lab Classrooms.** Asst. Superintendent Jermain, Brita Beitler, Nicole Klimek, Jenny Henderson, and Lisa Mello gave a presentation on LAB classroom and where we are now. Mrs. Jermain distributed her PowerPoint presentation. She reviewed the history of LAB classroom, how our district applies the LAB model practices beyond literacy, the coaching and gradual release method, peer coaching, benefits to peer coaching across grade levels, effectiveness of peer coaching, instructional focus groups and common planning, and the next steps.
- c) **Presentation on Tech Literacy.** Asst. Superintendent Jermain, Joan Mouradjian, Carol Strakosch, Rebecca Caron, and Gail Darmody, gave a presentation on the Technology Literacy work that is ongoing in our district. Mrs. Jermain distributed her PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the history, what is being done at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, the technology literacy classes and training that is available to all Portsmouth School Department staff, and the next steps.
- d) **Approval of January Financials.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the January financials as presented. So voted 4-0.

- e) **Budget Transfer.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to approve the budget transfer in accordance with the backup information provided. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 4-0.
- f) **Discussion of State Funding Formula Proposal and Next Steps in Preparing for the New BEP.** Dr. Lusi gave a detailed explained of the math and some of the thinking behind the formula for state aid to education that will cut Portsmouth's share by approximately \$2.6 million over the next 10 years. She explained how the state started with a core instruction amount of \$8,295 to educate a student in Rhode Island and then factored in the number of students in a school system, along with many other figures, to come up with the amount each city and town would get in aid. Dr. Lusi reviewed the state's use of the Equalized Weighted Assessed Valuations to compare the property values in all communities and how that figured into the determination of state aid. She stated that part of the reason Portsmouth's state aid is being cut is because of the decreasing enrollment over the past few years.

#### 8. **SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA**

- a) **Facilities.** No report.
- b) **Finance.** No report.
- c) **Health and Wellness.** No report.
- d) **Policy.** No report.

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to adjourn the meeting. So voted 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for:

Mrs. Marjorie Levesque, Clerk